

Story 760 (1985 Tape 2)

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Location: Çivril, kaza town of
Denizli Province

Date: January 1985

I Said "Tst!"¹

One day some time ago a village man lost his donkey. He looked everywhere for it but he could not find it. Then he left the village and went to the fields to search for his animal. After a while he saw one of his friends putting his sheep out to pasture on a hillside. The man shouted from a distance, "Mehmet, have you seen my donkey?"

Mehmet did not answer

Running up a little closer to his friend, he shouted again, "Mehmet, have you seen my donkey?"

Still Mehmet gave no answer.

This failure of Mehmet to respond angered the owner of the donkey. He walked the rest of the way across the valley, climbed up the hill, and confronted Mehmet. "I asked you twice, 'Have you seen my donkey?' Why didn't you answer me?"

"I did answer you both times. I said 'Tst!'"

¹In Turkish there are three ways to say No. Yok is the rude word for No. Hayır is the polite word. And a tongue click is a polite and gentle way of indicating the negative. This click is made by pressing the tongue against the inner side of the front teeth and then removing it suddenly. The sound thus produced cannot, of course, be heard more than a few feet away from the speaker.